

INTRODUCTION

This report consists mostly of tables, charts, and maps. The data are organized into five parts:

- (1) demographics,
- (2) populations at risk,
- (3) housing infrastructure,
- (4) housing affordability, and
- (5) housing availability.

Each of the five parts begins with brief text summarizing the topics to be covered and any necessary explanation. Data are generally presented for the state and cities and towns.

The data base is designed in a way that will make future updates relatively easy. This is the fourth publication and third update of this report. When possible, data sets have been updated, where appropriate they have been expanded, condensed, consolidated or deleted.

Many different sources have been used for the housing data base. Each contributor is noted on the page where the data is presented. The responsibility for accuracy lies with the contributing source.

There are acknowledged variations in the data presented. Some tabulations reflect point-in-time data, while others present annual totals. Several tables report data for a number of years, enabling trend lines to be developed and analyzed. Because data are reproduced from a variety of sources, a wide range of quality and format are to be expected.

It is acknowledged that this report does not respond to every question about Rhode Island's population and housing. Some may point out an absence of particular demographic or housing data that they deem important. The major limitation is availability. If no agency collects the information, this report cannot include it. In preparation for the initial publication of this report, discussions were held with various groups and individuals about information that would be worthwhile to publish. Comments and suggestions for additional data sets are always welcome.

It is intended that various pieces of data throughout this report be used in conjunction, so that the combined data will profile particular aspects of the housing situation in Rhode Island or a city or town. This report can serve as a basic statistical housing resource, useful for market analysis, general reference, or any study of housing conditions in Rhode Island.